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TAGS: OPRC, PGOV, PREL, KMDR, PK
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: TERRORISM; PAKISTAN POLITICAL
SITUATION; IRAQ

(MARCH 07, 2003)

NEWS:
TERRORISM
PAKISTAN POLITICAL SITUATION

OPINION:
PAKISTAN POLITICAL SITUATION
IRAQ
TERRORISM

1. HEADLINES

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"BUSH THANKED PRESIDENT MUSHARRAF ON KHALID SHAIKH
ARREST," "NAWA-E-WAQT" (03/07)

"CIA DIRECTOR GEORGE TENET SECRETLY VISITS PAKISTAN,"
"JASARAT" (03/07)

"USAMA'S ARREST IS MEANT TO INCREASE PRESSURE ON
PAKISTAN: DIPLOMATIC SOURCES," "JANG" (03/07)

"SEARCH FOR USAMA IN CHITRAL, BALOCHISTAN; PAK-U.S.
ACTION SPED UP," "JANG" (03/07)

"USAMA, MULLAH OMAR, ZAHAWARI, HEKMATYAR OR USAMA'S
SON: VERY IMPORTANT PERSONALITY ARRESTED ON PAK-AFGHAN
BORDER," "NAWA-E-WAQT" (03/07)

"USAMA'S SON SAAD ARRESTED; EIGHT KILLED IN CLASH,"
"NAWA-E-WAQT" (03/07)

"WE WERE SUBJECTED TO PSYCHOLOGICAL TORTURE: OMAR
KARAR, KHIZAR, USMAN," (ARRESTEES IN "KHWAJA
BNROTHERS" CASE) "NAWA-E-WAQT" (03/07)

"USAMA ARRESTED FROM BALOCHISTAN? AUTHORITIES REFUSE
TO CONFIRM," "PAKISTAN" (03/07)

"KHALID SHEIKH'S ARREST IS A MAJOR FEAT, THANKS FOR
COOPERATION: BUSH CALL MUSHARRAF," "DIN" (03/07)

"KUWAITI RED CROSS WORKER ABU HAFS HAS BEEN DECLARED

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KHALID SHEIKH MUHAMMAD; WE DO NOT HAVE LINKS WITH AL-
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QAEDA; THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST US IS A MERE BUBBLE OF
WATER: QAZI HUSSAIN AHMAD'S INTERVIEW WITH KHABRAIN
PANEL" "KHABRAIN" (03/07)

"7 ARRESTED, INCLUDING BIN LADEN'S SON; 8 AL-QAEDA
MEMBERS KILLED; THESE ARE RUMORS: RASHID QURESHI,"
"KHABRAIN" (03/07)

"U.S. OPERATION IN CHAGHAI (BALOCHISTAN); REPORTS OF
USAMA OR HIS SON BEING CAPTURED," "DIN" (03/07)

"THE FBI OFFICER SAID ' IF I HAD MY WAY I WOULD SHOOT
YOU RIGHT NOW;' THE AMERICANS MISBEHAVED AND MENTALLY
TORTURED US: PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE THREE PERSONS
RELEASED (IN "KHWAJA BROTHERS" CASE), " " DIN" (03/07)

"FBI ACTIVITIES IN PAKISTAN SHOULD STOP: KARACHI BAR
ASSOCIATION," "JANG" (03/07)

"AL-QAEDA DOES NOT EXIST; THIS IS AMERICAN CREATION:
QAZI HUSSAIN AHMAD," "NAWA-E-WAQT" (03/07)

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"KHALID SHAIKH WAS ARRESTED FROM KARACHI APARTMENT ON
JUNE 16; HIS ARREST WAS REPORTED BY DAILY TIMES,
KHALEEJ TIMES ON SEPTEMBER 9: ARY," "PAKISTAN"
(03/07)

"PAKISTAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON CONFRONTING EXPULSION
OF 250 PAKISTANIS FROM U.S.," "JANG" (03/07)

"OPPOSITION BY RUSSIA, FRANCE, GERMANY AND CHINA:
AMERICA, BRITAIN AGREE TO AMEND RESOLUTION; SADDAM TO
GET MORE TIME," "NAWA-E-WAQT" (03/07)

"IRAQ COOPERATING; FOUR MONTHS SHOULD BE GIVEN FOR
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INSPECTION; BLIX TO PRESENT REPORT AT SECURITY
COUNCIL," "NAWA-E-WAQT" (03/07)

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"BLIX, COLIN POWELL AT ODDS: DIFFICULTIES FOR AMERICA INCREASE," "JANG" (03/07)

"UN SHOULD RESOLVE KASHMIR DISPUTE TO SAVE ITS CREDIBILITY: PAKISTAN (MUNIR AKRAM); WE OPPOSE USE OF FORCE AGAINST IRAQ: KASURI," "NAWA-E-WAQT" (03/07)

"PAKISTAN'S TURN WON'T COME; BUT IF HAPPENS, WE WILL BE READY TO FIGHT: KHURSHID KASURI," "PAKISTAN" (03/07)

"OUR DECISION ON IRAQ WILL BE BASED ON OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS: PAKISTANI FOREIGN MINISTER," "DIN" (03/07)

"U.S. RESOLUTION'S SUPPORT WILL BE DEATH OF RULERS: LAWYERS DEMONSTRATE IN LAHORE AND PINDI TO EXPRESS SOLIDARITY WITH IRAQIS," "NAWA-E-WAQT" (03/07)

-- NEWS

-- TERRORISM

2. "WORLD BUZZING WITH USAMA CATCH" "THE NEWS" (03/07)

QUOTE: A MAJOR OPERATION WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED IN NOSHKI NEAR CHAGHAI IN BALOCHISTAN ON THURSDAY TO APPREHEND THE TOP AL-QAEDA TERRORISTS
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HIDING THERE. ACCORDING TO ONLINE NEWS AGENCY, NINE AL-QAEDA SUSPECTS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN THE RAID. BUT THERE WAS NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS FROM ANY SOURCE. THE AGENCY QUOTED SOME OFFICIALS AS CLAIMING THAT AMONG THE CAPTURED COULD BE USAMA BIN LADEN OR HIS SON.... SOURCES SUGGESTED THAT THE OPERATION NEAR CHAGHAI COULD BE THE FOLLOW-UP OF REPORTS THAT ARRESTED AL-QAEDA SUSPECT KHALID SHAIKH MUHAMMAD HAD TOLD INVESTIGATORS ABOUT THE WHEREABOUTS OF USAMA.... END QUOTE.

3. "USAMA IS ALIVE AND HIDING IN PAK-AFGHAN BORDER: PAKISTANI OFFICIAL," "JANG" (03/07)

QUOTE: A PAKISTANI INTELLIGENCE OFFICIAL HAS SAID THAT USAMA BIN LADEN WAS ALIVE AND HEALTHY AND WAS HIDING SOMEWHERE IN THE PAK-AFGHAN BORDER. END QUOTE.

-- PAKISTAN POLITICAL SITUATION

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4. "HATF-IV HANDED OVER TO PAKISTAN ARMY" "DAILY

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TIMES" (03/07)

QUOTE:

THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPLEX (NDC) ON THURSDAY
HANDED OVER PAKISTAN'S INDIGENOUSLY DEVELOPED HATF-IV
(SHAHEEN-I) MEDIUM RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILE TO ARMY'S
STRATEGIC FORCE COMMAND. THE MISSILE, WITH A RANGE OF
750-KM, CAN CARRY ALL TYPES OF WARHEADS AND IS HIGHLY
ACCURATE, A PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE INTER-SERVICES
PUBLIC RELATIONS (ISPR) SAID.... END QUOTE.

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OPINION

-- PAKISTAN POLITICAL SITUATION

5. "SHOW OF IMPRUDENCE," AN EDITORIAL IN THE CENTRIST
NATIONAL DAILY, "THE NEWS" (03/07)

QUOTE: IF WEDNESDAY'S SESSION OF THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY IS ANY INDICATION OF THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO
COME, THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY IN THE COUNTRY IS
HANGING BY A FRAGILE CORD THAT CAN SEVER ANYTIME,
PAVING WAY FOR UNDEMOCRATIC FORCES TO MOVE IN.
VOCIFEROUSLY REJECTING THE LFO AS PART OF THE
CONSTITUTION, THE OPPOSITION PARTIES NOT ONLY
BOYCOTTED THE SESSION SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS THE FOREIGN
POLICY BUT ALSO VOWED TO BLOCK THE PROCEEDINGS IN THE
HOUSE TILL THE TIME THE LFO IS PRESENTED BEFORE THE
PARLIAMENT FOR DEBATE AND ASSENT.... THURSDAY'S
SESSION WAS UNFORTUNATE AS IRRESPONSIBILITY AND
OPPOSITION AS WELL AS THE TREASURY BENCHES
DEMONSTRATED IMPRUDENCE. OPPOSITION MUST USE ITS
RIGHT TO PROTEST AND BOYCOTT IN A MORE CIVILIZED
MANNER WITHOUT CREATING DOUBTS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF
DEMOCRACY. AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD
HAVE COME PREPARED TO DEAL WITH THE OPPOSITION WHOSE

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REACTION TO THE COPIES OF CONSTITUTION WITH LFO WAS
PREDICTABLE.... THE PRESIDENT, WHO IS ALSO THE ARMY
CHIEF, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION JOINTLY WILL
HAVE TO SHOW PRUDENCE AND FLEXIBILITY IN DEALING WITH
MATTERS THAT COULD ONLY BE RESOLVED THROUGH DIALOGUE
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6. "BREAKING THE STALEMATE," AN EDITORIAL IN THE CENTER-RIGHT NATIONAL DAILY, "THE NATION" (03/07)

QUOTE: THE POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION ON THE LFO COULD LEAD TO A DEADLOCK. THIS MUST BE AVOIDED AT ALL COSTS.... THE GOVERNMENT HAS TO UNDERSTAND IT CANNOT RUN THE COUNTRY BY SIDELINING A FORMIDABLE OPPOSITION. THE OPPOSITION TOO MUST TAKE STOCK OF THE DANGERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS STALLING. BOTH SIDES HAVE TO AGREE TO SOME GIVE AND TAKE WITHOUT IN ANY WAY JEOPARDIZING THE SUPREMACY OF PARLIAMENT. WHATEVER THE NATURE OF THE DIFFERENCES, THERE IS ALWAYS A HOPE THESE CAN BE RECONCILED IF THE PARTIES REMAIN ENGAGED, WHICH IS NOT CURRENTLY THE POSITION. MR. JAMALI CAN BREAK THE GRIDLOCK BY INVITING THE OPPOSITION TO TALKS. HE WILL ALSO HAVE THE DELICATE TASK OF CONVINCING THE OFFSTAGE PLAYERS THAT IT IS NOT IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST TO INSIST ON MAINTAINING AN INTRUSIVE MILITARY PRESENCE IN POLITICS. WHICH IS THE MAIN MOTIVE FOR THE

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OPPOSITION'S OBJECTIONS TO THE LFO. END QUOTE.

7. "CONFRONTATION OVER LFO?," AN EDITORIAL IN THE
KARACHI-BASED INDEPENDENT NATIONAL DAILY, "DAWN"
(03/07)

QUOTE: ONCE AGAIN, A GOVERNMENT AND A HIGHLY WORKED-
UP OPPOSITION ARE ON A COLLISION COURSE IN PAKISTAN.
THE ROAR AND THUNDER OF STREET AGITATION - THE BANE OF
PAKISTAN'S POLITICS - IS ONCE AGAIN IN THE AIR. WHILE
ONE HOPES THINGS WOULD NOT GO THAT FAR SO SOON, THE
EXTENT OF POLARIZATION SEEN IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON WEDNESDAY LEAVES ONE WITH A TROUBLING SENSE OF
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FOREBODING. "GO, GO" IS SOMETHING WE HAVE HEARD
BEFORE IN PARLIAMENT, BUT THE RESULTS OF THOSE
SCREAMING, RAGING AND TEARING EXERCISES HARDLY EVER
SERVED TO ADVANCE DEMOCRACY'S OR THE COUNTRY'S
INTERESTS.... THE CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES ARE BASICALLY
TWO: THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL AND PRESIDENT
MUSHARRAF AS BOTH HEAD OF STATE AND THE CHIEF OF ARMY
STAFF. INSTEAD OF FIGHTING THE LFO BATTLE AS A TAKE-
IT-OR-LEAVE-IT CONTEST, A BETTER OPTION WOULD BE TO
SUBJECT THE PACKAGE TO A CLAUSE-BY-CLAUSE SCRUTINY BY
A JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION
AND THEN DECIDE WHICH ONES TO RETAIN AND WHICH TO
LEAVE OUT. THIS WILL BE IN KEEPING WITH THE SPIRIT
AND TRADITION OF HOW CONTENTIOUS ISSUES AND PROBLEMS
ARE RESOLVED IN A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT. A
POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL CONFRONTATION OF THE KIND
THREATENED BY WEDNESDAY'S UPROARIOUS SCENES IN THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IS THE LAST THING THAT PAKISTAN CAN
AFFORD AT THIS CRITICAL TIME. END QUOTE.

8. "NA REJECTS LFO," AN EDITORIAL IN THE ISLAMABAD
RIGHTIST ENGLISH DAILY, "PAKISTAN OBSERVER" (03/07)

QUOTE: ... THE OPPOSITION HAS ALL ALONG BEEN
DEMANDING THAT PARLIAMENT BEING THE SUPREME BODY, THE
GOVERNMENT SHOULD PRESENT THE AMENDMENTS BEFORE IT.
AS THE TWO SIDES STAND POLES APART ON THE ISSUE, IT
SEEMS WE ARE HEADING TOWARDS A BIG SHOW DOWN
ESPECIALLY ON THE OCCASION OF THE FORTHCOMING ADDRESS
OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE JOINT SESSION OF PARLIAMENT, A
RITUAL THAT HAS TO BE PERFORMED AFTER COMPLETION OF

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SENATE ELECTIONS. IT IS FEARED THAT THERE MIGHT BE
RE-RUN OF THE BENAZIR BHUTTO'S TIRADE AGAINST ELDERLY
GHULAM ISHAQ KHAN WHEN SHE SHOUTED IN CHORUS "GO-BABA-
GO". THE STALEMATE WILL CONTINUE UNLESS THE TWO SIDES
SHOW FLEXIBILITY IN THEIR RIGID POSITIONS AND FIND
SOME ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THE ISSUE. FOR THAT
PURPOSE, THE RULING PML(Q) AND OPPOSITION PARTIES
SHOULD PREFERABLY FIRST SORT OUT THINGS OUT OF
ASSEMBLY AND THEN BRING THE MATTER IN THE HOUSE FOR A
DECISION. END QUOTE.

-- IRAQ

9. "THE OIC OPPOSES WAR," AN EDITORIAL IN THE

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ISLAMABAD RIGHTIST ENGLISH DAILY, "PAKISTAN OBSERVER"
(03/07)

QUOTE: ... IT'S CERTAINLY A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT FOR
THE UMMAH THAT THE LEADERS OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD HAVE,
AT LONG LAST, WOKEN UP FROM THEIR DEEP SLUMBER IN
RESPECT OF THE MOUNTING U.S. PRESSURE AGAINST THE
MUSLIM COUNTRIES. IRAQ, IRAN, LIBYA, PAKISTAN AND

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LONDON FOR POL/GOODRICH; PARIS FOR POL/HANSON
CENTCOM PUBLIC AFFAIRS-MAJ.BALDWIN/SGT. BAKER
USCINCPAC FOR POLAD AMBASSADOR HOLZMAN
SECDEF FOR PA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, PGOV, PREL, KMDR, PK

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: TERRORISM; PAKISTAN POLITICAL
SITUATION; IRAQ

SEVERAL OTHER MUSLIM NATIONS ARE WASHINGTON'S
PERSISTENT TARGET ON ONE PRETEXT OR THE OTHER. THOUGH
BELATED, THE OIC'S LOUD AND CLEAR MESSAGE TO THE U.S.
AND BRITAIN WILL HOPEFULLY HAVE DESIRED EFFECT TO
AVERT WAR AGAINST BAGHDAD. IT'S REALLY UNFORTUNATE
THAT THE OIC HAS SELDOM GIVEN A TIMELY RESPONSE TO THE
WEST'S ONSLAUGHTS AGAINST THE MUSLIM WORLD.... IF
BRUTE'S HAND IS NOT STOPPED TODAY, IT WILL BE
IMPOSSIBLE TO THE RESTRAIN HIM TOMORROW FROM HIS
PURSUITS OF GENOCIDE AND ANNIHILATION AGAINST THE
MUSLIM COUNTRIES. THIS IS THE TIME FOR THEM TO STAND
UPRIGHT AND REFUSE TO BE PARTY TO THE DEATH AND
DESTRUCTION IN IRAQ. TO REPENT AFTER THE DAMAGE HAS
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BEEN DONE WILL BE SIMPLY FUTILE. END QUOTE.

10. "U.S.-IRAQ DISPUTE AND THE OIC RESOLUTION," AN
EDITORIAL IN THE POPULIST URDU DAILY "KHABRAIN"
(03/07)

QUOTE: A RESOLUTION ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE
OIC SESSION IN QATAR HAS REJECTED A U.S. ATTACK ON
IRAQ. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE OIC HAS ISSUED SUCH
AN UNAMBIGUOUS DECLARATION. HOWEVER, THE OIC MUST NOT
ABSOLVE ITSELF OF ALL RESPONSIBILITY (REGARDING IRAQ)
BY MERELY ISSUING A STATEMENT. IT SHOULD GO BEYOND
THAT STAGE AND PROVIDE STRONG AND WORKABLE PROPOSALS
IN THE UNITED NATIONS TO AVERT WAR. END QUOTE.

11. "OIC RESOLUTION," AN EDITORIAL NOTE IN THE
POPULAR URDU DAILY "DIN" (03/07)

QUOTE: IT IS A GOOD SIGNAL THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME A
CLEAR STANCE HAS BEEN ADOPTED IN AN OIC CONFERENCE ON

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ANY ISSUE.... THE UNPLEASANT EXCHANGE BETWEEN KUWAITI AND IRAQI REPRESENTATIVES IS UNFORTUNATE AND SHOWS HOW DEEP THE MUTUAL DISTRUST GOES. EARLIER ON, THE DIFFERENCES THAT SURFACED DURING THE ARAB LEAGUE SESSION ALSO WEAKENED THE ORGANIZATION'S POSITION. THE CLASH BETWEEN LIBYA AND SAUDI ARABIA WAS SO INTENSE DURING THAT MEETING THAT LIBYA IS NOW READY TO OPT OUT OF THE ORGANIZATION. AT A CRITICAL JUNCTURE SUCH AS THIS, THERE IS A NEED FOR THE MUSLIM WORLD TO BURY PAST DIFFERENCES AND FORGE UNITY AMONG THEIR RANKS FOR LARGER INTEREST OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD AND ITS

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PEOPLE. END QUOTE.

12. "SURVIVAL STRATEGIES," AN OP-ED BY M.A. NIAZI IN THE CENTER-RIGHT NATIONAL DAILY, "THE NATION" (03/07)

QUOTE: ... THE U.S. REFUSES TO BELIEVE SADDAM'S CURRENT COOPERATION BECAUSE IT IS UNEXPECTED; FRANCE AND GERMANY ARE UPSET WITH THE UNITED STATES' ADAMANCY BECAUSE THAT TOO IS UNEXPECTED. THEREFORE, PAKISTAN SHOULD NOT DO SOMETHING DRAMATIC ON THE IRAQ ISSUE, LIKE VOTE AGAINST A U.S. RESOLUTION IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. THE BEST IT CAN DO IS ABSTAIN.... END
QUOTE.

-- TERRORISM

13. "MUSLIM COUNTRIES AND CRUSADE," A COLUMN BY ABBAS ATHER IN THE SECOND LARGEST URDU DAILY, "NAWA-E-WAQT" (03/07)

QUOTE: NEWSWEEK HAS REPORTED THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HALF A CENTURY A FUNDAMENTALIST CHRISTIAN

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ACTION INR-00

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| | IO-00 | LAB-01 | VCE-00 | MOFM-05 | MOF-01 | AC-01 | NEA-00 |
| | DCP-01 | NSAE-00 | OIC-02 | PA-00 | ACE-00 | SCT-00 | SSO-00 |
| | SS-00 | TEST-00 | USIE-00 | SA-00 | R-00 | EPAE-00 | IIP-00 |
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AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY TASHKENT
AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CCPA IMMEDIATE
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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STATE FOR INR/R/MR, IIP/T, IIP/G/NEA-SA, SA
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ADMINISTRATION RULES AMERICA.... IN 1999, BUSH HAS
SAID IN A GATHERING OF PASTORS THAT HE HAD BEEN CALLED
TO HIGHER OFFICE.... HAVING READ THE ARTICLE NO DOUBT
SHOULD REMAIN THAT PRESIDENT BUSH AND HIS GANG IS
FIGHTING A CRUSADE AGAINST MUSLIMS.... THIS IS THE
FATE OF ALL THE MUSLIM COUNTRIES INCLUDING PAKISTAN TO
SUPPORT PRESIDENT BUSH IN THIS "SACRED WAR," AND KEEP
ON THINKING THAT THEY WILL BE SAVED BY PUSHING OTHERS

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IN THE DITCH. END QUOTE. POWELL

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